

Texas Legislature

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HHSC Government Relations



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Legislative Dates

The Legislature convenes in regular session for 140 days.

- ◆ Pre-filing of bills started November 14, 2016.
- ◆ 85th Legislative Session convened at noon on January 10, 2017.
- ◆ Last day for bills to be filed is March 10, 2017.
- ◆ Regular session ends Monday, May 29, 2017.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. File
2. First reading
3. Committee process*
4. Get on a calendar
5. Second reading*
6. Third reading/final passage*
7. Repeat steps 2-6 in other chamber*
8. Conference committee*
9. Executive action



*opportunity for bill to change


Tracking Legislation

Texas Legislature Online (TLO)

- ◆ <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>
- ◆ Use TLO to:
 - ◆ Find bill information
 - ◆ Search for bills by subject or committee
 - ◆ Create an account to track bills and get alerts

Tracking Legislation

Texas Legislature Online (TLO)



Texas Legislature Online
Text









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House: Adjourned sine die
Senate: Adjourned sine die

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Bill: SB 204 **Legislative Session:** 84(R) **Author:** Hinojosa [Add to Bill List](#) | [Add to Alert List](#)

Version	Bill	Fiscal Note	Analysis	Witness List	Summary of Cmte Action
Introduced	  	 	  		

The Committee Process

Basic business conducted according to committee system:

- ◆ Bill posted for hearing
- ◆ Committee hears testimony
- ◆ Agency staff may serve as resource witnesses
- ◆ Committee substitute or amendments may be offered
- ◆ Bill may be left pending or committee members may vote on bill
- ◆ All bills must have fiscal impact statement to pass out of committee

The Committee Process

Current HHSC oversight committees:

- ◆ House Committee on Appropriations
- ◆ House Committee on Human Services
- ◆ House Committee on Public Health
- ◆ Senate Committee on Finance
- ◆ Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Testifying in Committee Hearings

- ◆ Public testimony is taken on all bills during committee hearings.
- ◆ Anyone may register a position and/or give testimony on any bill.
- ◆ State agencies may not take a position on a bill, but may be asked to serve as resource witnesses.
- ◆ Advisory committee members may testify, but must do so as private citizens, not as representatives of the state agency to which the committee is attached.

Testifying in Committee Hearings

- ◆ Committee hearing information can be found on TLO.
- ◆ Oral testimony is usually limited to three minutes, but the committee will also take written testimony.
- ◆ To register your position or to sign up to testify, fill out a witness registration form, then wait for your name to be called!